c) whether the extra assistance sought during the current financial year has been provided so far, giving the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to c) Information is being collected and will be furnished.

2055. [*Transferred to the 16th March, 1994*].

World Bank Assistance to States

2056. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has decided to provide direct assistance to States;

(b) if so, the details of the States to which World Bank has decided to provide loans and the sectors; and

(c) what will be the Central Government's role in case of World bank's direct assistance to states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Opposition to closure of Unviable Bank branches

2057. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade union leaders opposed the closure of unviable branches and privatisation of nationalised banks;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they wanted several clauses to be removed to improve the recovery of bad debts; and

(c) what are the future plans of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Representations have been received from trade unions in this regard. During the meeting of the Finance Minister with the leaders of the trade unions in January, 1994 the apprehensions of the trade union leaders as regards closure of branches and privatisation of banks were allayed.

(b) No specific proposal has been received in this regard.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have proposed to the banks concerned that some of the chronic loss making branches which are unlikely to improve their financial position despite all efforts may either be coverted into 'recovery' branches or closed down. The number of branches to be closed down would be around 100.

Evolving a new concept of Industrial Sickness

2058. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has urged Government to evolve a new concept for evaluating industrial sickness:

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on the view of PHDCCI;

(c) whether Government propose to give more powers to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) The PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has submitted a memorandum to Government in the context of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restructuring. The recommendations are under consideration of Government.